Bobbi Jo Williams

Project #4

Oral History Summary

While doing the story of me or the family oral history report, I came to appreciate where I came from and the history of the generations before me. I am a mix of German, Pennsylvania Dutch, and Indian backgrounds. My mother’s side of the family is mostly German and my father’s family is both Pennsylvania Dutch and Native American…although that is still out for debate! Through the project, I was able to gain insight into the Pennsylvania Dutch traditions and decided to focus on that aspect of my history as a family.

Ever since I can remember, my family has enjoyed some pretty peculiar foods. I never gave much thought about what types of foods we ate when I lived in the Pennsylvania area. Once I moved away, people would often ask me what I was eating or what kind of language I was using when I said things like, “Are yous guys going with?”

As I get older and my older generation of family members pass on, I learn to appreciate my heritage a little more. Unfortunately, I am only left with the things that they have given me and I can no longer ask them the questions that have come about with this project. My father has given me some insight into the Pennsylvania Dutch background and the research that I have done through this project has helped some with the history of the people.

I have compiled a few of our idiosyncrasies into a slide show utilizing pictures, recipes and some heritage specific sayings. I can see how this project can be used to help students connect with their family’s history and broaden out to the larger context of events, cultures, or eras in history.